

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel Claims 162 and 180 without prejudice or disclaimer of subject matter. Please amend the remaining claims as follows:

1. to 153. (Cancelled)

154. (Currently Amended) A liquid container for an ink jet recording apparatus, capable of containing liquid to be used by an ink jet head, wherein said liquid container is detachably mountable to a holder having the ink jet head and an ink supply tube for directing liquid from said liquid container to the ink jet head, said liquid container comprising:

a main body, provided with an ink accommodating member, for containing a liquid;

a supply port for supplying the liquid to the recording head, said supply port being disposed in a bottom side which faces said ink supply tube when said liquid container is mounted in the holder, wherein said ink accommodating member faces said ink supply port;

a first engaging portion, provided on a first side of said main body, adapted to engage with a first locking portion of the holder; and

an elastic supporting member having a second engaging portion at an outside thereof adjacent a second side of said main body opposite of the first side and

adapted to engage with a second locking portion of the holder, wherein said supply port is disposed between said first engaging portion and said second engaging portion,

wherein said elastic supporting member is extended downwardly from an upper portion adjacent a top portion of said second side and adjacent a top side of said main body which is opposite said bottom side, wherein said elastic supporting member extends downwardly from said upper portion toward said bottom side,

wherein said elastic supporting member is provided with an operating portion for facilitating mounting or demounting said liquid container relative to the holder,
and

wherein said engaging portion is disposed at a position closer to a free end of said elastic supporting member than the operating portion

~~wherein said elastic supporting member is extended downwardly from a portion adjacent a top portion of said second side.~~

155. (Previously Presented) A liquid container according to Claim 154, characterized in that said liquid container comprises an air vent portion for fluid communication between the inside of said main body and the ambience.

156. (Previously Presented) A liquid container according to Claim 154, characterized in that said main body accommodates said accommodating member which is a negative pressure producing material for retaining the liquid.

157. (Cancelled)

158. (Previously Presented) A liquid container according to Claim 154, characterized in that said supply port is provided with fibrous material.

159. (Previously Presented) A liquid container according to Claim 154, characterized in that said main body contains black ink.

160. (Previously Presented) A liquid container according to Claim 154, characterized in that the inside of said main body is divided into three portions, and said supply port and said air vent are provided for each of said three portions, and wherein said three portions contain yellow ink, cyan ink and magenta ink, respectively.

161. (Currently Amended) A liquid container according to Claim 160, characterized in that said three portions are disposed along a direction from said first side to said ~~other~~ second side.

162. (Cancelled)

163. (Previously Presented) A liquid container according to Claim 154, characterized in that when said container is mounted to the holder, said second engaging portion takes a position above said first engaging portion.

164. (Previously Presented) A liquid container according to Claim 154, characterized in that said second engaging portion is in the form of a projection, having a height of approximately 1 mm, extended from said elastic supporting member.

165. (Cancelled)

166. (Currently Amended) A liquid container according to Claim 154, characterized in that said elastic supporting member is in the form of a latch lever extended downwardly from a portion adjacent to a top portion of said ~~other~~ second side.

167. (Currently Amended) A liquid container according to Claim 154, characterized in that two of the sides connecting said first side and said ~~other~~ second side are provided with a projection contactable to a part of the holder, respectively.

168. (Previously Presented) A liquid container according to Claim 154, characterized in that a normal line from a central portion of said supply port to a line connecting a central portion of said first engaging portion and a central portion of said second engaging portion is not more than 10 mm.

169. (Previously Presented) A liquid container according to Claim 154, characterized in that a normal line from a central portion of a contact portion of a supply tube of the recording head to said supply port to a line connecting a central portion of said

first engaging portion and a central portion of said second engaging portion is not more than 10 mm.

170. (Previously Presented) A liquid container according to Claim 154, characterized in that said supply port is on a line connecting a central portion of said first engaging portion and a central portion of said second engaging portion.

171. (Previously Presented) A liquid container according to Claim 154, characterized in that said elastic supporting member elastically moves toward said main body when said container is mounted or demounted relative to the holder.

172. (Cancelled)

173. (Previously Presented) A liquid container according to Claim 154, characterized in that when said liquid container is mounted to the holder, said second engaging portion is inside the second locking portion of the holder, and is not extended outwardly.

174. (Previously Presented) A liquid container according to Claim 154, characterized in that an inclined surface is provided at a corner portion between a bottom side, in operation, of said main body and said first side.

175. (Previously Presented) A liquid container according to Claim 154, characterized in that said supply port and said elastic supporting member are protected by a protection member during transportation of said liquid container.

176. (Previously Presented) A liquid container according to Claim 175, characterized in that said protection member has a sealing member for sealing said supply port of said a liquid container.

177. to 206. (Cancelled)

207. (Previously Presented) A liquid container according to Claim 154, wherein said ink supply port is provided with a liquid absorbing material.

208. (Previously Presented) A liquid container according to Claim 165, wherein said latch lever is curved or bent toward said main body.

209. (Previously Presented) A liquid container according to Claim 154, wherein said first engaging portion and said second engaging portion are engaged with said first locking portion and said second locking portion, respectively, to establish fluid communication by pressure between said ink accommodating member and said ink supply tube.

210. (Currently Amended) A liquid container for an ink jet recording apparatus, capable of containing liquid to be used by an ink jet head, wherein said liquid container is detachably mountable to a holder having an ink supply tube constituting a beginning end of a path for directing the liquid from said liquid container to the ink jet head, said liquid container comprising:

a main body, having an accommodating member for containing the liquid;

a supply port for supplying the liquid to the ink jet head, said supply port being disposed in a bottom side of said main body which faces said ink supply tube in operation, wherein said ink accommodating member faces said ink supply port;

a first engaging portion, provided on a first side of said main body and adapted to be engaged with a first locking portion of the holder; and

a supporting member resiliently supported by said main body and being extended in front of a second side opposite said first side and having a second engaging portion at an outside thereof facing away from said second side of said main body and capable of moving away from and towards said second side, wherein said second engaging portion is adapted to engage with a second locking portion of the holder,

wherein said supply port is disposed between said first engaging portion and said second engaging portion when said liquid container is mounted into said holder, wherein said first engaging portion and said second engaging portion are engaged with said first locking portion and said second locking portion, respectively, to establish fluid communication by pressure between said ink accommodating member and said ink supply tube, and

~~wherein said supporting member is extended downwardly from a portion adjacent a top portion of said second side~~

wherein said elastic supporting member is extended downwardly from an upper portion adjacent a top portion of said second side and adjacent a top side of said main body which is opposite said bottom side, wherein said elastic supporting member extends downwardly from said upper portion toward said bottom side,

wherein said elastic supporting member is provided with an operating portion for facilitating mounting or demounting said liquid container relative to the holder,
and

wherein said engaging portion is disposed at a position closer to a free end of said elastic supporting member than the operating portion.

211. (Cancelled)

212. (Currently Amended) A liquid container according to Claim 210, characterized in that said supporting member is in the form of a latch lever extended downwardly from a portion adjacent to a top portion of said ~~other~~ second side.

213. (Previously Presented) A liquid container according to Claim 210, characterized in that a normal line from a central portion of said supply port to a line connecting a central portion of said first engaging portion and a central portion of said second engaging portion is not more than 10 mm.

214. (Previously Presented) A liquid container according to Claim 210, characterized in that a normal line from a central portion of a contact portion of a supply tube of the recording head to said supply port to a line connecting a central portion of said first engaging portion and a central portion of said second engaging portion is not more than 10 mm.

215. (Previously Presented) A liquid container according to Claim 210, characterized in that said supply port is on a line connecting a central portion of said first engaging portion and a central portion of said second engaging portion.

Please add Claims 216 to 219, as follows:

216. (New) A liquid container according to Claim 154, wherein said second engaging portion is provided facing inwardly of said elastic supporting member.

217. (New) A liquid container according to Claim 154, wherein said second engaging portion is provided facing outwardly of said elastic supporting member.

218. (New) A liquid container according to Claim 210, wherein said second engaging portion is provided facing inwardly of said elastic supporting member.

219. (New) A liquid container according to Claim 210, wherein said second engaging portion is provided facing outwardly of said elastic supporting member.